

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212120

NODIS

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 4874 ACTION SECSTATE DATED AUG 21:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4874

NODIS

DEPT PASS USUN IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WA, SF, PDEV, MAAR

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AHTISAARI MISSION

REF: USUN 3232 (NOTAL)

1. CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT BRUCE R. BRILL, WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR USAF AIRLIFT OF AHTISAARI MISSION, ARRIVED PRETORIA YESTERDAY, AUGUST 20 (AS AUTHORIZED BY REFTTEL), FROM WINDHOEK AND ASKED TO SEE DCM AND POLITICAL OFFICERS. BRILL IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS ATTACHED TO USUN MILITARY ADVISOR AND INDICATED HIS
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PRIMARY TASK IN NAMIBIA IS TO FOLLOW THE PLANNING BEING DEVELOPED BY AHTISAARI'S TEAM WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE FACT THAT THE US WILL BE UNDERWRITING MOST OF THE COST OF TRANSPORTING THE UNSR AND UNTAG TO NAMIBIA.

2. BRILL REPORTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE HE IS NOT PART OF THE UN TEAM AND THEY HAVE NOT ALLOWED HIM TO

ACCOMPANY THE UN MILITARY ELEMENTS ON TRIPS OUTSIDE WINDHOEK.
NOR WILL THEY PERMIT HIM TO SURVEY THE GROOTFONTEIN AIRPORT IN

ANTICIPATION OF ITS USE BY THE US AIRLIFT; THE SOUTH AFRICANS
ASSERT THEY AGREED TO A FACT-FINDING MISSION BUT NOT TO ANY SURVEYS.
FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS BRILL WAS KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY THE
SOUTH AFRICANS; CLOSE SURVEILLANCE HAS NOW BEEN DISCONTINUED.
HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO DRIVE PRIVATELY AS FAR NORTH AS ESTOSHA: HE
DID NOT ATTEMPT TO GO TO GROOTFONTEIN.

3. BRILL SAID HIS MAIN PURPOSE IN COMING TO PRETORIA WAS TO DISCUSS
MILITARY AND LOGISTICAL MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE US AND TO THE
UNSR'S MISSION. HE HAD, HOWEVER, SOME POLITICAL AND RELATED
QUESTIONS WHICH HE SAID AHTISAARI WANTED HIM TO RAISE WITH US.
IT APPEARED FROM HIS REMARKS THAT HE ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF
AHTISAARI, WITH WHOM HE ADVISED US HE IS MEETING TODAY, AUGUST
21, UPON HIS RETURN TO WINDHOEK. THE FOLLOWING EMERGED FROM
BRILL'S DISCUSSION WITH THE DCM AND EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS.

4. BRILL SAID AHTISAARI WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW HOW WE VIEW THE
HANDLING OF HIS MISSION SO FAR. BRILL WAS NOT SURE WHAT WAS
WORRYING AHTISAARI IN THIS REGARD. THE DCM ANSWERED THAT WE DID
NOT KNOW MUCH MORE THAN THE PUBLIC PICTURE, BUT IT APPEARED
AHTISAARI WAS MAKING A GOOD IMPRESSION OF REASONABLENESS AND
IMPARTIALITY.

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5. ACCORDING TO BRILL, AHTISAARI ALSO WANTED TO KNOW OUR VIEWS
ABOUT HOW THE SAG WOULD REACT TO DELAY IN ELECTIONS UNTIL MAY.
DCM SAID THE QUESTION WAS HYPOTHETICAL AT THE MOMENT, BUT,
AS AHTISAARI WAS NO DOUBT AWARE, THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD NOT
LIKE IT. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IN THE END THEY COULD REJECT
A MAY DATE BECAUSE THE COST TO THEM OF REJECTION WOULD LIKELY BE
HIGH. THEY COULD NEVERTHELESS REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE DELAY, DESPITE
THE COST AND THE UNREALISM OF THE YEAR-END DEADLINE.

6. AHTISAARI WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER STEYN HAD THE AUTHORITY TO
SEPARATE THE POLICE IN NAMIBIA COMPLETELY FROM SOUTH
AFRICA. THE IDEA IS TO PUT THE FORCE UNDER THE SOLE AUTHORITY OF
STEYN. DCM REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A QUESTION FOR A LEGAL EXPERT
AND ONE WHICH AHTISAARI WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PUT TO STEYN. DCM
ADDED THE AG HAS A GREAT DEAL OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY UNDER THE
PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING HIS POSITION AND PERHAPS HE COULD
TRANSFER THE POLICE TO HIS EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY BY PROCLAMATION--
WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. BUT
THAT VIEW WAS NOT AUTHORITATIVE.

7. ASKED ABOUT AHTISAARI'S VIEW OF THE REGISTRATION PROCESS,
BRILL ANSWERED THAT AHTISAARI'S TEAM (AND APPARENTLY AHTISAARI

HIMSELF) WANTS TO PROCEED WITH THE REGISTRATION AS IS AND TRY TO DEVISE A METHOD OF VERIFICATION OF THE PROCESS AT THE END. DCM COMMENTED THAT, IF THIS APPROACH WAS FEASIBLE, IT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST COURSE BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT IMPORTANCE SOUTH AFRICANS ATTACH TO PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS OF THEIR OWN REGISTRATION SCHEME.

8. REGARDING THE MISSION'S MILITARY ADVISOR, BRILL SAID GENERAL HANNES PHILLIP WAS POORLY EQUIPPED FOR THE TASK AT HAND. AHTISAARI APPEARS TO BE AWARE OF THIS. WHEN BRILL REMINDED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE THAT GENERAL CHAND HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR THE MISSION, AHTISAARI MADE NO RESPONSE.

9. BRILL ALSO REPORTED THAT AHTISAARI IS WORRIED BY AND OPPOSED
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TO GENERAL PHILLIP'S VIEW THAT NO UN NOMINATORS (OBSERVERS) SHOULD BE STATIONED IN THE NORTH ON THE FRONTIER UNTIL THE ENTIRE LOGISTIC SYSTEM WAS SET UP. BRILL SAID HE ASKED PHILLIP HOW LONG THAT WOULD TAKE. THE ANSWER WAS 45-60 DAYS. BRILL NOTED SUCH DELAY COULD HAVE DISASTEROUS CONSEQUENCES, BUT PHILLIP IS APPARENTLY ADAMANT.

10. THE MILITARY ELEMENT OF AHTISAARI'S MISSION IS BEING INTENSIVELY WINED AND DINED BY THE SADF AND LEARNING VERY LITTLE, ACCORDING TO BRILL. THEY ARE NOT GETTING SPECIFIC INFORMATION, IN PART BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ASKING THE NECESSARY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. THEY HAVE NOT EVEN SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW MANY TROOPS THE SADF HAS IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA. THEY ARE BEING FLOWN WHEREVER THEY WISH TO GO BUT RECEIVE ONLY SUPERFICIAL IMPRESSIONS.

11. ADMINISTRATIVELY, BRILL SAID, THE AHTISAARI MISSION IS IN DISORDER. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IS APPARENTLY QUITE CONFUSED AND INEFFECTIVE. HE ASSERTS, FOR INSTANCE, THAT NO APPROPRIATE VEHICLES CAN BE PURCHASED FOR UNTAG HERE. BRILL IS RETURNING TO WINDHOEK WITH INFORMATION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY UNTAG ARE INDEED AVAILABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA. BRILL SAID THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WAS ALSO CONTEMPLATING AN EXPENSIVE PROPERTY ACQUISITION IN WINDHOEK TO ACCOMMODATE A LARGE TENT CAMP FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE NO NEED.

12. BRILL ADVISED THAT TWENTY-FIVE OF AHTISAARI'S 52-MAN MISSION WILL LEAVE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, FOR NEW YORK; THE OTHERS WILL REMAIN IN NAMIBIA. AHTISAARI IS DETERMINED TO GET HIS REPORT WRITTEN BY NEXT WEEKEND AND FLY WITH IT TO SEE WALDHEIM (IN MADRID, BRILL THOUGHT) BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

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13. BRILL INDICATED TO US THAT ONE RECOMMENDATION HE INTENDS TO MAKE UPON RETURNING TO NEW YORK IS THAT USDAO PRETORIA BE REQUESTED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SURVEYS OF GROOTFONTEIN AND OTHER NAMIBIAN AIRFIELDS WHICH USAF AIR SUPPORT MISSIONS WOULD WISH TO USE. (COMMENT: I AM NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE OR ADVISABLE FOR USDAO PRETORIA TO MAKE THESE AIRPORT SURVEYS, EVEN ASSUMING SOUTH AFRICANS AGREED. THE REQUEST TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS REGARDING THE SURVEYS SHOULD, OF COURSE, COME FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, EVEN THOUGH, AS BRILL POINTED OUT, THE USAF WILL PROBABLY ONLY ACCEPT SURVEYS MADE BY US PERSONNEL. WHILE IT MIGHT BE MOST CONVENIENT TO USE USDAO PRETORIA FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER FOR APPEARANCES SAKE TO HAVE A SPECIAL USAF SURVEY TEAM COME OUT FROM THE US ACCOMPANIED BY A UN LIAISON OFFICER.)

14. DCM STRESSED TO BRILL THAT HIS CONTACT WITH EMBASSY, INCLUDING DAO, SHOULD BE VERY CLOSELY HELD. BRILL SAID HE AGREED COMPLETELY.

15. STATE 211530 JUST RECEIVED. BRILL RETURNED TO WINDHOEK AT 0700 LOCAL TODAY, AUGUST 21.
EDMONDSON UN

Message Attributes

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